

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
ACBL District 1
September 12, 2024
(via ZOOM)

Present:

Sandra MacPherson	President	smacpherson67@gmail.com
Marc-André Fourcaudot	Vice President	mafourcaudot@icloud.com
Rob Williams	Treasurer	rob.williams@ns.sympatico.ca
Leo Weniger	Past District Director	leowen@hotmail.ca
Jonathan Steinberg	Regional Director	jonathan.st911@gmail.com
George Retek	Director Emeritus	gbridgeretek@gmail.com
Heather Peckett	Secretary	bridgecat@rogers.com
Pierre Tremblay	Unit 199	tremblayp4@hotmail.com
Claire Desmeules	Unit 199	cdesmeules@hotmail.com
Jacques Caouette	Unit 152	jacques.caouette@videotron.ca
Frank Savaria	Unit 151	bridge.frank@outlook.com
Diane Donovan	Unit 230	didonovan55@gmail.com
Bill Halliday	Unit 194	ns.bill.halliday@gmail.com
Tim Edwards-Davies	Unit 192	time-d@rogers.com
Colin Brodie	Unit 192	ca_brodie@yahoo.com

	Action
<p>1. Call to Order and Welcome</p> <p>The President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Quorum requirements set out by the Bylaws were met.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of 2023 District 1 AGM</p> <p>The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were reviewed. Moved by J. Caouette, and seconded by R. Williams that the Minutes be approved. Carried.</p>	
<p>3. Election of Tournament Coordinator</p> <p>Bill Halliday has been our interim coordinator since the recent resignation of T. Malazdrewicz. G. Retek, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that B. Halliday was the candidate recommended for this position by the Committee. No other nomination was put forward. B. Halliday will be the Coordinator for the next year.</p>	
<p>4. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>R. Williams presented the financial report for 2023.</p> <p>The major income stream for the District comes from the Grass Roots Fund. Typically, this Fund is used to cover Unit requests under the Player Development Program and for subsidies for eligible NAP and GNT participants in the National Finals.</p>	

<p>Additionally, there are now 2 Royal STACs each year. The 1st Royal 2023 STAC broke even. The District earned \$1,275 (Cdn) on the 2nd Royal STAC.</p> <p>There is an undetermined liability for the payments to be made to the recruiters of the Incentive program for the early 2024 period. This liability was estimated not to be large enough to be reflected in the statements</p>	
<p>5. Financial Review Committee</p> <p>An independent Committee consisting of G. Retek and P. McCabe conducted a review of the financial records. G. Retek noted that the Treasurer has made the change recommended by the Committee to add the interest earned on the 2020 Fund to the Fund balance. P. McCabe will be invited to attend the 2025 AGM to make this report. As the 2023 NABC Fund report became available too late in 2024 it was not examined by the Review Committee.</p>	
<p>6. Incentive Program</p> <p>The Program was terminated at the end of March 2024. The District gained a total of 250 new members through this program. Payments have been made to all recruiters for the period ending December 2023. R. Williams will send an email to all club managers to ensure that all recruiters received their Program entitlements.</p>	R. Williams
<p>7. Regional Director's Report</p> <p>J. Steinberg continues to be very optimistic about the ACBL Board reports are on his website,</p> <p>J. Steinberg has donated part of his 2024 ACBL Regional Director Honorarium, which had been increased by the ACBL. \$1,000 (US) each has been given to the Canadian Women's team who will be attending the World Championships in Argentina and to Unit 151 to help defray the additional expense incurred for its Regional due to the flood.</p>	
<p>8. Doug Heron Award</p> <p>This award recognizes the greatest (%) growth in new members in a Unit each year. We congratulate Unit 199 as the 2023 winner.</p>	
<p>9. GR and CLW Trophy Winners</p> <p>The President announced that René Pelletier (posthumously) and Claire Desmeules were co-winners of the Gerge Retek Award.</p> <p>René Pelletier was a pillar of bridge in Quebec. He was successful in growing the bridge community through teaching and mentoring new players for the enjoyment of the players, he was the first to use Bridge-mates and hand-records in the local clubs.</p> <p>Claire Desmeules has been Unit 199 President for 22 years. She has been instrumental in using new approaches to getting new members as evidenced by Unit 199 winning the Doug Heron Award for 2023.</p>	

<p>Unknown to the selection Committee, René was a mentor to Claire when she began her bridge career.</p> <p>Denis Lavoie is the winner of the CLW award. Denis has been the in-charge Director of most tournaments in Quebec for a number of years. Many players have identified him as a Director who exhibits complete professionalism and leadership</p> <p>G. Retek had the 2022 CLW and George Retek plaques ready to present to Sol Weinstein and J. La Traverse at the Montreal regional. However, circumstances prevented these presentations from taking place. Subsequently J. La Traverse received his plaque.</p> <p>Bill Halliday will join the Trophy Committee for a 3-year term. It will be chaired by M-A. Fourcaudot. Other member is H Peckett.</p>	<p>M.-A. Fourcaudot H. Peckett B. Halliday</p>
<p>10. Election of L. Weniger as District 1 Director Emeritus</p> <p>G. Retek spoke about the extensive record of volunteer work L. Weniger has provided to Unit 194, the CBF and to the District Board as President. He also served as District Director for 9 years.</p> <p>J. Steinberg noted that our District has no member of the Executive who is a member of a Unit Board. Ideally there should be more Unit representation on the Executive.</p> <p>In response to a question by M-A. Fourcaudot, L. Weniger said that his role is undefined, but that he is there to provide assistance when needed.</p> <p>The vote, taken by secret ballot, approved L. Weniger's appointment as District Director Emeritus.</p>	
<p>11. Proposed Policy on STACs</p> <p>Currently the District hosts 2 Royal STACs and the CBF sponsors a Canada-Wide STAC each calendar year. Each Unit has had discretion to sponsor additional District-Wide STACs as well as stand-alone Unit STACs.</p> <p>R. Williams tabled a Motion summarized below that would allow each Unit to participate in the first STACs noted above and to sponsor one extra District-Wide STAC.</p> <p>Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We limit the total number of District-Wide STACs • Maintain 2 Royal Region 1 STACS as long as ACBL continues to sanction them. • Units can participate in a maximum of 2 Royal STACs in each year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a Unit wishes to participate in a Royal STAC run by another Unit they would have to opt out of the Region 1 Royal STAC. <p>Allocate to each Unit 1 additional District-Wide STAC per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units would have until October 1st of each year to confirm their desire to sponsor a District-Wide STAC 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any Unit declines its opportunity to sponsor a District-Wide STAC it would be offered to other Units. <p>A lengthy discussion ensued. One Unit has often sponsored District-Wide STACs. When players from outside the sponsoring Unit have participated in these STACs, attendance at F2F Sectionals in other Units has been negatively affected.</p> <p>Ideally players should already be back playing F2F games and ready to play in tournaments. H. Peckett noted that most clubs in Ottawa are nowhere near their previous table count and it is important to have a maximum number of STACS at clubs to “get them back”. T. Edwards-Davies noted that Unit 192 needs extra STACs to subsidize their Regional and Sectional tournaments. C. Brodie noted that as a club owner, STACs provide a necessary revenue stream at this point.</p> <p>Amendment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Unit be allowed to sponsor Unit-Wide STACs at its discretion in addition to hosting the 2 Royal STACs, CBF STAC and the District-Wide STAC. <p>Motion as amended was voted on and accepted.</p> <p>B. Halliday will inform each Unit President about these changes.</p>	<p>B.Halliday</p>
<p>12. District Policy on GNTs and NAPs</p> <p>The document was tabled for information only.</p> <p>The ACBL Board of Directors approved changes to NAP and GNT effective for 2025 GNT and 2026 NAP:</p> <p>Championship Level added to NAP (splitting Open into 2 levels)</p> <p>New Master Point level applying to both NAP and GNT is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Championship Flight: 0-unlimited master points (New) • Flight A: 0-6000 masterpoints (Previously 0-unlimited) • Flight B: 0-3000 masterpoints (Previous 0-2500 masterpoints) • Flight C: 0-750 Non-Life Master (Previously non-Life Master up to 500 masterpoints) 	
<p>13. Proposal to use the 2020 Montreal NABC Fund to Increase Attendance at 2024 Regionals.</p> <p>G. Retek and H, Peckett developed a proposal which would provide a reduction in entry fees at each 2025 Regional. As the Fund was to be used in 2020 to reduce table fees, similar to what the CBF did at the Toronto 2024 NABC, we proposed that this practice be followed. G. Retek determined the minimum and potential maximum use of the Fund, but</p>	

<p>ensured that there would still be \$15-20,000 I available for special requests from Units and other projects.</p> <p>A motion was put forth that a Committee should be set up to review the use of this Fund. The Committee would have 3 members of the District Executive and 2 Unit Presidents. Carried.</p> <p>(Discussion documents were sent on August 15, 2024)</p> <p>T. Edwards-Davies agreed to be a member of the Committee. Additional members will be approved by the District executive. The Committee will report by December 31, 2024.</p>	<p>District Executive T. Edwards-Davies</p>																												
<p>14. Election and Appointment of Officers</p> <p>G. Retek presented the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee. There were no further nominations.</p> <p>On behalf of the District, G. Retek expressed a sincere thank you to both S. MacPherson and M-A. Fourcaudot for their services in the past year as President and Vice-President.</p> <p>The Officers for 2024-25 will be:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>R. Williams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Past President</td> <td>S. MacPherson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice-President</td> <td>T. Edwards-Davies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>H. Peckett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>M. Moldovan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Events/Tournament Coord.</td> <td>B. Halliday</td> </tr> </table> <p>Other District Chairs to be appointed by the President:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Charity</td> <td>M. Moldovan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discipline</td> <td>P. Clark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recorder</td> <td>D. Beveridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appeals</td> <td>T. Edwards-Davies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education and Membership</td> <td>K. Macnab</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAP Coordinator</td> <td>M.A. Fourcaudot</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GNT Coordinator</td> <td>G. Malazdrewicz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website Coordinator</td> <td>L. Mascolo</td> </tr> </table>	President	R. Williams	Past President	S. MacPherson	Vice-President	T. Edwards-Davies	Secretary	H. Peckett	Treasurer	M. Moldovan	Special Events/Tournament Coord.	B. Halliday	Charity	M. Moldovan	Discipline	P. Clark	Recorder	D. Beveridge	Appeals	T. Edwards-Davies	Education and Membership	K. Macnab	NAP Coordinator	M.A. Fourcaudot	GNT Coordinator	G. Malazdrewicz	Website Coordinator	L. Mascolo	
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<p>15. Adjournment</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned. It was suggested that the District Executive meet within 1 month.</p>																													